

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, which amends claims 26, 30, 38, 41, and 47, and cancels claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-21, and 23-25, and adds new claims 50-51, claims 26-51 will be pending. In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-21, and 23-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Swart (U.S. Patent No. 6,347,306) in view of Kahn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,401,079, hereinafter "Kahn"). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of the Interview conducted on September 27, 2005. Amendments to the claims and the cited references were discussed.

Claim Rejections

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Swart in view of Kahn. Applicants submit that Swart and Kahn, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest every element of claim 26, as amended. For example, claim 26 recites:

interconnectivity software operational when executed by a processor to direct the processor to:

- receive the time data into a program module,
- receive the expense data into the program module,
- store the time data received from the program module and the expense data received from the program module in a central time and expenses database, the time and expenses database being a single access point for a plurality of independent software applications;
- transfer the time data from the time and expenses database to a payroll system, the payroll system including a payroll software application configured to process the time data; and
- transfer the expense data from the time and expenses database to an accounts payable system, the accounts payable system including an accounts payable software application configured to process the expense data, wherein the payroll software application receives the time data and the accounts payable software application receives the expense data independently from each other and from the single access point of the time and expenses database;

Swart discloses a payroll processing system 230 and a banking system 250. See *Swart*, Fig. 2. A time and attendance system 200 can store employee time and attendance information in a database 210. An HR system sends data from database 210 to payroll processing system 230, which can then calculate an employee's net pay. The pay can then be transmitted to a banking system 250, which can issue a check to the employee.

Kahn discloses a system that enables employees to specify policies for payments to third-party payees, such as an automatic deduction for an employee's mortgage payment. Also, employees can use the system to pay their personal bills. See *Kahn*, col. 5, lines 47-50. As shown in Fig. 1 of Kahn, a central application server 20 is provided.

Applicant submits that Swart and Kahn, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a time and expenses database that is a single access point for a plurality of independent software applications. As claimed, a payroll software application receives the time data and the accounts' payroll software application receives the expense data independently from each other and from a single access point of the time and expenses database.

Swart discloses a payroll processing system that receives data from the HR system, processes that data and sends the data to a banking system. Kahn discloses a single application server that allows users to pay bills. Thus, a combination of Swart and Kahn would either include a series of systems that process payroll data or process a bill payment after one another or a single server that processes payroll data or pays a bill. Thus, either the combination of Swart and Kahn disclose a single application server or a series of systems to process data after a previous system processes the data. Swart and Kahn, either alone or in combination do not disclose or suggest independent software applications that may access time data and expense data independently and from a single access point of a time and expenses database.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 26. Claims 27-29 and 50-51 depend from claim 26 and thus derive patentability at least therefrom. These claims also recite additional non-obvious and novel features. For example, claim 50 recites transferring the processed time data from the payroll system to a projects system and transferring the processed expense data from the accounts payable system to the projects system. The projects system includes a project application that is configured to process the

processed time data and the processed expense data. The time data flows from the single access point to the payroll system to the project system, and the expense data flows from the single access point to the accounts payable system to the project system.

Also, as recited in claim 39, the projects system processes the time data and the expense data. Applicant submits that Swart and Kahn, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest independent applications that independently access time data and expense data from a single access point of the time and expense database and then transfer the processed time data and processed expense data to a projects system, which can then process the time data and expense data. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 27-29 and 50-51.

Applicant submits that claims 30-49 should be allowable for at least a similar rationale as discussed with respect to claims 26-29. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

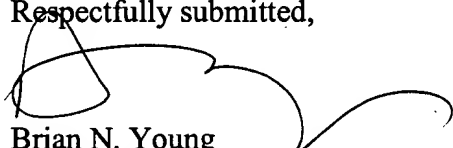
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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